

# The Weekly Banner.

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Tuberculosis is in England and makes the cause of 14 per cent. of all male and 13 1-2 of all female deaths.

It is believed that the Hon. John McMillan will succeed Itham G. Harris as senator from Tennessee.

THE Huntsville Item predicts that the West Bay channel at Galveston will aid materially in solving the wharfage problem.

A GUSHING poet asks in the first line of a recent effusion: "How many weary pilgrims lie?" We give it up; but experience has taught us that there are a good many.

THE Texas Coaster incidentally remarks: "If editors would print everything they know, the price of tar, feathers and ammunition would go up wonderfully. So would editors."

THE Willis Index says: "The friends of Joe Sayers are legion, and the report comes from all over the State that his political supporters are becoming more and more numerous as the time of the real contest approaches."

STRONG hopes are entertained for the ultimate pardon and release from custody of Mac Stewart, the Confederate Veteran confined in a dungeon at Parral, Mexico, charged with the murder of a Mexican policeman some four years ago.

THE little Denison boy who requested Santa Claus to bring him an odorless goat displayed excellent taste as well as considerable originality. The editor of the Herald who produced the above is evidently trying to rival "Mary's Little Lamb."

THE bandits captured in Arizona on the 16th inst., have been identified in Tucson by the engineer and brakeman of the train held up at Steen's Pass as the men who took charge of the engine. They were sent, under a strong guard, to Lordsburg, New Mexico, for final trial.

WHILE the goldites are resorting to all kinds of tricks to mislead and deceive they are constantly prating about national honor as if they were the appointed guardians of that priceless virtue. Historical facts show that they are poorly qualified for custodianship of national morals.

CONGRESSMAN COOPER, of Texas, has introduced in the House a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution limiting the tenure of office of the Supreme and Inferior Judges of the United States and making these offices elective or appointive as Congress by law may direct. The resolution is a good one and ought to become a law.

THE foreign fruit tree men are with us by the bunch and the country is being stocked with northern trees. Hallettsville has a nursery of its own, but some people appear not to know it.—Hallettsville Herald.

No, but after they have given up their money, their time and a lot of good land to some trees not suited to this climate the aforesaid people will rear up on their hind legs and swear by all the gods at once that this is no fruit country; whereas, if they planted trees suited to this climate, which can only be supplied by Texas nurserymen, the chances are they would raise all the fruit they want. Northern grown trees won't do in this country, but few seem willing to recognize the fact, until they learn it from experience.—Karnes County News.

Moral: Buy your fruit trees and shrubbery from the Rose-dale Nursery, at Brenham, and secure satisfactory results. Their trees are acclimated and guaranteed true to name. Patronize home industries and help to build up grand old Texas.

## THE CREDIT MERCHANT.

The credit merchant is just now the subject for lively debate, and he is soundly criticised by a large proportion of the debtor classes, says the Tyler Courier. The season is on for a settlement of accounts and it is attended with the usual unpleasantness and heart aches. In many instances the account is larger than the assets of the debtor; and whether this is the case or not the debtor feels that he is paying more than value received for the goods bought in the months that are past and gone forever. He feels that he has promised more of his earnings than a just compensation for what he has received. All this is natural and it is the feeling year after year. In January, February and all of the spring months, the credit merchant enjoys a season of popularity; he is much sought after, encouraged and flattered. He is the big man in town, and not infrequently he is called colonel, judge or major. But in June and July he begins to tell the debtor that the account is grown and that the debtor must hedge; and this news brings on a sad feeling, and the debtor thinks and thinks and thinks, and the more he thinks the more he feels that he has been paying mountain high prices for bacon, corn, shoes and the like; and by the time settlement day rolls around, he not only feels that way, but he knows it. And just at this time the howl goes up against the credit merchant and it is kept up until the new season is on and then the same credit merchant regains his popularity and is the big man of the spring before, and so the endless chain is readjusted and on the business goes as it has gone "for twenty years or more."

Nothing is better understood than that the life of the credit merchant is one of anxiety and fear. Sometimes he makes money and sometimes he lands in bankruptcy. Five of them fail in business to where one of their customers fail and they have customers by the hundreds.

Say what you will, the credit merchant has a rocky road to travel. He buys the best brands of goods and sells them on time at a large advance. This fact is known far and wide. He takes chances. He sells on a "future prospect." He sells on a crop before it is planted. It is largely his goods and capital that make the cotton and produce that find their way into the local market. But for his appearance early in the year, there would be wailing and gnashing of teeth by the cornless, meatless and shoeless farmer, be he populist or democrat. If he did not appear on the ground with bacon and farmers supplies and offer to exchange them for a crop not yet planted, indignation meetings would be held and the town vigorously denounced because of its failure to furnish the farmer so that he could make a crop and save his little wife and big children from hunger. It is when the rainy day comes that the farmer rushes to the credit merchant and expects that the merchant has laid up enough in dry weather for all, and to spare.

Viewed from any standpoint the credit merchant is a necessity in any cotton growing country. He helps and befriends more people than any other class of citizens. He loses more money by helping the poor than does any other class.

But for the credit merchants in this town this year, many farmers would have been ruined and many people would now be without bread. In this county alone this year's crop would have been one half million dollars short of what it is now, and we all know it is short even as it is.

To abuse the credit merchant is to abuse the only man that is willing to help the farmer who is without gilt edge collaterals and

who must eat before he can work. The money lender will not help the farmer who is so poor as not to have on hand and in sight, ample security; and the cash merchant does not know him.

The farmer is on notice this year that credit prices are high and that they have always been high, and that they will always be high, because of the expense and risk and loss that follows the system. Being upon notice and failing to provide against the necessity for going in debt the following year he should feel thankful that the credit merchant is in town able to help him.

THERE are 100,000 able bodied men out of employment in New York City alone, and the government at Washington still lives.

A NEW baby came to a Kansas editor's home, and after announcing the fact he concluded the notice: "We would not take \$10,000 for this one nor give 50 cents for another."

THE Belton Journal submits in the subjunctive mode an incontrovertible proposition: "If the South would only raise about seven million bales of cotton next year, prices would go out of sight."

NORTHERN cotton mills are cutting down wages and closing their works. They cannot compete with the southern mills, all of which are prospering. The cotton mill industry is passing from the north to the states where the cotton is grown. Let Texas see to it that she gets her share.

THE total visible supply of cotton at the end of the past commercial week was 4,072,062 bales, of which 3,841,062 were American and all other kinds, including Egypt, Brazil, India, etc., were 281,000. In spite of suggestions of foreign competition in production the American cotton crop comes pretty near being the whole thing.

THE Ashland (Tenn.) Times very sweetly remarks concerning the editor of the Hickman County News: "We are not always spoiling for a fight, but we respectfully yet firmly insist that this imported scribe from the sand hills of Georgia, the gay and festive ex-goobler-grabber from the land of clay-eaters, shall mind his own business."

THE gold fever at Uvalde continues getting higher all the time, but some of the old timers cool it off occasionally by reminding the people of a former gold find they had some experience with in that same county. It is rumored that that explosion recently heard by the Brackett News man was caused by a tenderfoot dropping his wad.—Eagle Pass Guide.

As the annual swearing off time is only a few days in the future the example contained in the following paragraph should not be lost. "Mr. James Wood, of Indiana, has given an heroic example of 'swearing off.' Mr. Wood is only 101 years of age and has used tobacco ever since he was a boy, but he is fearful that it will impair his health and diminish the number of his years, so he has at this late day quit its use."

THE widow of a Wisconsin man who died of typhoid fever recently, has sued the water company of her town for damages and the fact that the man's death was due to disease produced by impure water, was proved in court and the widow was awarded \$5,000 damages. The water company is sadder and it is to be hoped, wiser and better since the verdict. The precedent is an important one and should be heeded by all water companies.

Unless you want to be poor don't try to keep all you get.

## A Funny Law.

A bill has passed the Texas legislature prohibiting the payment of taxes in scrip. Just why a state or county should refuse to redeem its paper at 100 cents on the dollar is hard for us to understand. Just why the county should yank a man up and put him on a jury for several days and then pay him in scrip which he could not use in paying his taxes, seems to us wrong. It looks like throwing the citizen further into the hands of the man who is on the lookout for bargains in scrip.—Ex.

So long as men are ambitious for political power, so long as office is sought as the basis of emolument, so long as interest dominates that which should be a mark of honor and viewed as a sacred trust, just that long will personal antipathies, hatreds and jealousies be engendered. Men, thoughtful and patriotic men, are reminded with each recurring political agitation that safeguards should be thrown around the ballot that will purify, not becloud its exercise. There is too much corruption being sowed in political methods. The welfare of the people, honesty and purity in the administration of governmental affairs, great and small and the happiness, peace and prosperity of all the people, imperitively demand some radical reforms in existing methods.

THERE is nothing so healthy in this world as a cheerful heart and a disposition to look on the rosy side of everything. Trouble is not physical ailment, but a mental condition. It is hard on the brain, hard on the body and hard on our friends. A clear conscience, a brave heart and healthy liver mean a long and happy life. It is the mistake of the age to worry and fret over things that cannot be helped or hopes that cannot be realized. Laugh at trouble and it vanishes.

SPEAKING of the retirement of greenbacks the New York Sun (Republican) says: "The plain citizen will naturally conclude that if the government is to assume the risk of loss on the paper currency of the nation, it may as well take the profits of its issue also. It is an easy matter to provide for the redemption of its own notes as it is for the banks, and certainly the savings of interest on from \$200,000,000 to \$800,000,000 of bonds is not to be despised."

A BAPTIST preacher in Trenton, New Jersey, has found a new means of drawing contributions from his congregation. Instead of sending the stern looking old members to hand the plate about, he employs the prettiest young girls of the church for that purpose, and it is said that the result has proven very gratifying both to the preacher and the congregation. This is another development of the "new woman" possibly.

The chamber of deputies of Mexico, has approved the bill authorizing the minister of finance to issue a new series of 5 per cent silver bonds of the interior debt to the amount of \$20,030,000, making the total authorization \$60,000,000.

Lo, the poor Indian, seems to be catching up with the van guard of civilization very rapidly. At any rate he is accused of having fired the U. S. courthouse at Ardmore in order to destroy the records.

Lord Mansfield has been a member of the London Carlton club continuously since 1832. Gladstone joined the club in 1833, but left it 1859 for political reasons.

All the swing bridges across the river within the limits of the city of Chicago are now operated by means of electricity.

A Denver bank teller disappeared leaving his accounts all right. He evidently forgot something.

## SELECTING A HUSBAND.

"My dear girl, when a man asks you to become his wife, you ought to put some questions to yourself. Satisfy yourself that you love this man well enough, not only to be happy with him, but, if need be, to suffer with him. Decide for yourself is this the man of all others in whom you will find your ideal companion, for championship means as much in marriage as in friendship. Then, you must think of the future. Ask yourself, too, whether this man brings out in you all that is best, whether he provokes that which is little and mean in you, or whether he piques you into making light of that which is good. Decide whether this man is the one with whom you would be willing to grow old; whether this man is the one to whom you would, without hesitancy, submit questions that troubles your conscience. Then, too, you must ask yourself what seems, perhaps, like a trivial question, whether this man is one whose name you will feel honored in bearing, not because of any material wealth he may possess, but because of his being an honest gentleman. Think out all these things, ask yourself question upon question, not only as to his fitness, but as to yours, and then, if you give him the loving answer that he wishes, try to become thoroughly acquainted with him.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Home and Farm: "If the substance of a common potato be treated with certain acids it becomes almost as hard as stone and can be used for many purposes for which horn, ivory or bone is now employed. This quality of the potato adapts it to button-making, a very good grade of button is now made from the well-known tuber. Billiard balls are also made from it. The potato button cannot be distinguished from the others by an expert, as it can be colored to suit the goods on which it is used. It is every whit as good looking a button as a button of bone or ivory. The cheapness is a great recommendation."

Speaking of the United States, Miss Gonne, the Irish Joan, says: "Would that Ireland might come to share its blessings!" Ireland already has come for that purpose, says an exchange; if you don't believe it, ask the nearest policeman.

When the Duke of Monmouth was executed in the reign of James II for treason, his duchess ordered every oak in the park to be cut on the fateful morning. The new growth, belonging to Lord Ebury, is one of the finest forests in Britain.

In the lottery of life there are more prizes drawn than blanks, and to one misfortune there are fifty advantages. Despondency is the most unprofitable feeling a man can indulge in.

W. F. Aldrich who is contesting the seat of Mr. Plowman for the Fourth district of Alabama, proves his faith by works. He has moved his family to the capital.

A West Philadelphia man who is going to the Klondike intends to take a shotgun, and is practicing so he can shoot the rapids in the Yukon.

A bill has been introduced in the Georgia legislature to legalize poker playing. Some one suggests that it is more dangerous than football.

HON. JOHN W. DANIAL has been re-elected United States senator from Virginia.

Congress at the coming session will have to rehabilitate the interstate railway commission if that tribunal's future usefulness is desired. The way matters now stand the commission has about as much authority as a justice court.

## Alphabetical.

A grain of pride is a pound of craft.  
Boasters are caught.  
Denying a fault doubles it.  
Envy shoots at others and wounds herself.  
Foolish fear doubles danger.  
God teaches us good things by our own hands.  
He has worked hard who has nothing to do.  
It costs more to revenge wrongs than to suffer them.  
Knavery is the worst trade.  
Learning makes a man fit company for himself.  
Modesty is a guard to virtue.  
Not to hear conscience is the way to silence it.  
One hour today is worth two tomorrow.  
Proud looks make foul work in fair faces.  
Quiet conscience is quiet sleep.  
Some faults indulged are little thieves that let in greater ones.  
The boughs that bear most, hang lowest.  
Upright walking is sure walking.  
Virtue and happiness are mother and daughter.  
Wise men make more opportunities than they find.  
You never lose by doing a good act.  
Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.

## STATE NEWS.

—Taylor is to have a new 25-ton ice plant.  
—Fifteen new penalty suits have been filed against the Katy.  
—There is one daily and nine weekly papers published in Collin county.  
—A new public school building is to be erected in the Fair Grounds addition to Houston.  
—L. N. Walker, of Arlington, had his pocket picked of a \$800 roll in Fort Worth last Monday.  
—Attorney General Crane emphatically denies the charge that he had lobbied against the text book bill.  
—Sheriff Cabell, of Dallas county, states that a gang of professional burglars are operating in North Texas.  
—Over \$2,000,000 worth of property was imported into Texas through the El Paso custom house during the last November.

## AN UNJUST LAW.

The Seguin Enterprise says the newspaper men demand a change in the infamous libel law of this State which makes it possible for a newspaper man to sue every county in the State in cases of criminal action, not even allowed to pay charge as a defense. If other citizens are sued they are cited to appear in the courts of their home county. If rigidly enforced, the present libel law of Texas would ruin every outspoken paper in the State. If it succeeded in winning every suit, the lawyer's fees alone would bankrupt the publisher. The people should not complain because the press fails to expose wrong and puncture fraud in high as well as low places. The newspapers are practically gagged. The politicians and adventurers who win popular favor with their blandishments are afraid of an outspoken, unbought and unpurchasable newspaper, and it is this class of men who are responsible for the present libel law. The press does not seek license to defame or misrepresent any man. It demands a law that will deal justly with the newspaper publisher and protect him in telling the truth when the publication of such truth is in the interest of the public good. As the law now stands it places a premium upon blackmail and fraud and is a standing shield to villany in its worst and most dangerous form.